

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 14-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 have been herein amended. Claim 19 has been newly added, which is identical to original claim 2, which was inadvertently canceled in the previous amendment. Reconsideration of the rejections in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Nguyen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,248,805) in view of Patel et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,210) and Fujisawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,136).

The present invention is directed to an ink which provides a high quality image by stable dispersion due to rapid drying (namely, stable fixation by self-film-shaping and blur resistance). The presently invented ink includes a copolymer obtained from a radical polymeric monomer, and avoids blurring. The ink includes copolymer consisting essentially of (a) 20 through 99 wt% of either styrene or styrene derivative; (b) 10 through 80 wt% of alkyl acrylate, alkyl methacrylate, alkyl acrylate derivative or alkyl metacrylate derivative; and (c) 1 or more wt% of polymeric monomer including a polar group, the polymeric monomer including a polar group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, 2-hydroxypropyl-N, N, N-trimethylammonium chloride acrylate, vinylpyridine and N, N-diallylmethylammonium chloride are necessary to achieve "stably fixed by self-film shaping," as recited in independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 17. These independent claims further recite "a volume average particle diameter ranging from 0.05 through 1 μ m," which is necessary to achieve the stable dispersion.

None of the cited references teaches or suggests, among other things, the above item "(c) 1 or more wt% of polymeric monomer including a polar group, the polymeric monomer including a polar group selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, 2-hydroxypropyl-N, N, N-trimethylammonium chloride acrylate, vinylpyridine and N, N-diallylmethylammonium chloride." The inks disclosed in the cited references do not have the effect of the rapid drying. Therefore, these cited references do not provide a high quality image by stable dispersion due to rapid drying.

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 14, 16 and 17 patentably distinguish over Nguyen et al, Patel et al and Fujisawa et al. Claims 2, 4, and 6-10, depending from claim 1, also patentably distinguish for at least the same reasons. Claim 18, depending upon claim 17, also patentably distinguishes for at least the same reasons.

It is submitted that nothing in the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in each claim of the present invention. Thus all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections, withdrawal of the rejections and an early issue of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

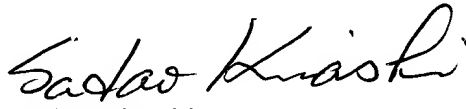
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sadao Kinashi".

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